

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 64-72, 75-85, and 96-127 are pending in the application, with 64, 68, 71, 75, 79, 82, 84, 85, 96, 100, 103, 105, 109, 112, 114, and 121 being the independent claims. Claims 64, 68, 71, 75, 79, 82, 84, and 85 have been rewritten in independent form to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 1-63, 73, 74, and 86-95 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 96-127 have been added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying allowable subject matter in this application. On page four of the Office Action, the Examiner identified claims 64-72 and 75-85 as containing allowable subject matter. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 64, 68, 71, 75, 79, 82, 84, and 85 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims in order to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 65-67, 69, 70, 72, 76-78, 80, 81, and 83 each depend from one of the allowable independent claims 64, 68, 71, 75, 79, 82, 84, and 85, and thus do not depend upon a rejected base claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 64-72 and 75-85 are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page two of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 86 and 95 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Thus, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages two and three of the Office Action, the Examiner made various rejections of claims 1-9, 18, 23, 54, 63, 73, 74, and 87-94 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Thus, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

New Claims 96-127

New claims 96-127 have been added to further clarify the claimed invention. New claims 96-127 each recite a combination of features similar to the combination of features recited in one of the allowable claims 64-72 and 75-85. New claims 96-127 are patentable over the references applied by the Examiner for at least the same reasons as claims 64-72 and 75-85 are patentable over the applied references.

Entry, consideration, and allowance of new claims 96-127 are respectfully requested.

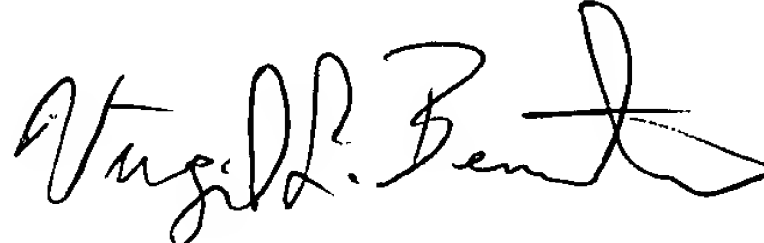
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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